

**ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE • 105 HALSEY STREET • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102 • (201) 642-4047

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December 14, 1983

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105 HALSEY STREET  
NEWARK, N.J. 07102  
(201) 642-6000

Passaic County Center  
176 WASHINGTON STREET  
PATTERSON, N.J. 07650  
(201) 779-1110

Mr. Joseph A. Furfey  
Manager, Area Development  
First Jersey National Bank  
1 Exchange Place  
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Dear Mr. Furfey:

As you know, a number of community agencies have been forced to close their doors this Fall due to financial difficulties. Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey, will not have to do that thanks in large measure to the help of institutions such as the First Jersey National Bank. The funding picture for Aspira's programs looks very positive. Corporations, foundations, individuals, the United Way of Essex and West Hudson, the Newark Board of Education, the State Division of Youth and Family Services, and the federal Public Health Service have supported Aspira in 1983 and have pledged their continued support for 1984.

Although originally slashed from the federal budget, Congress voted an allocation last month for the National Talent Search Program (Aspira is one of the agencies funded) which helps academically gifted, economically disadvantaged minority students enter college. Therefore, we can assure motivated Hispanic students in Passaic County assistance through 1985.

Thanks to your support, Aspira was able to serve last year 1,451 students in Essex, Hudson, and Passaic Counties while placing 300 in colleges and medical schools. Its programs include dropout prevention in two junior high schools, math and science tutoring for high school students, and business careers counseling and medical school placement for college students. Aspira's counselors provided a necessary service to students in the public school system who are not receiving adequate attention, instruction or guidance.

A project last year especially worthy of note is the creation of a math and science manual which Aspira developed with a grant from the Newark Board of Education to be used as a model for the school system.

I am happy to report on two outstanding Aspira executives: Maria Vizcarrondo-DeSoto, who is managing

wonderfully as a forceful leader in these difficult financial times, and her full-time Fiscal Officer, Calixto Laboy. Prudential has doubled its contribution to \$11,000 to help pay for this top-notch financial professional. In addition, Prudential is providing its own financial expertise to help with Aspira's quarterly audit and is printing Aspira's Annual Report.

As your institution reviews its contribution budget for 1984, I hope you will encourage it to make a sizeable increase in its contribution to Aspira in 1984. Aspira pledges to continue its high quality of service because the Hispanic and disadvantaged students in our community need it. The Committee of Sponsors is committed to broadening Aspira's base of support.

Just how effective Aspira has been was dramatically demonstrated by an independent, nationwide study on Hispanic Organizations commissioned by the Coca Cola Co., USA, and released November 15, 1983. The national sample was asked which Hispanic Organization "is best able to meet the needs of the Hispanic Community." The organization most mentioned by the respondents was Aspira. We are deeply indebted to all our contributors for their role in Aspira's success.

I am enclosing Aspira's Annual Report which details the work made possible with your contribution. I hope you will join with me and the many others who have helped Aspira to continue its most useful and inspiring work on behalf of the Hispanic and disadvantaged youths in our community.

Sincerely yours,



Edward J. Lenihan

Encl: Annual Report, Contribution Card